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TAGS:PFOR, US, GR

SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF GREEK AMBASSADOR ON CYPRUS, GOG-GOT
DISPUTE OVER AEGEAN, AND U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING POINTS OF SUBSTANCE EMERGED DURING COURTESY
CALL BY NEW GREEK AMBASSADOR PANAYOTACOS ON UNDER SECRETARY
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS SISCO.

2. CYPRUS. ACCORDING TO PANAYOTACOS, AN INDEPENDENT,
SOVEREIGN, AND UNITARY STATE WAS THE AGREED BASIS FOR THE
INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS, BUT THE TURKS ARE NOW INSISTING ON
A FEDERAL STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE ISLAND. AS
RESULT, TALKS ARE NOW AT A STANDSTILL. IF GOT PERSISTS IN
TALKING ABOUT FEDERATION, THEN GREEKS CAN ONLY CONCLUDE
THAT TURKS WANT TO REVIVE IDEA OF PARTITION. PANAYOTACOS
AGREED WITH SISCO'S COMMENT THAT INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS
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SHOULD BE CONTINUED AS THEY REPRESENT BEST HOPE FOR

RESOLVING DIFFERENCES.

3. GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE OVER AEGEAN. SISCO NOTED CONTRAST BETWEEN GOG AND GOT EFFORTS OF PAST SEVERAL YEARS TO PROMOTE GOOD RELATIONS AND PRESENT TENSION BETWEEN TWO

COUNTRIES AND ASKED FOR PANAYOTACOS' COMMENTS. LATTER ASSERTED THAT GOT IS "ARBITRARILY" MAKING CLAIM TO TERRITORIAL WATERS WHICH ARE CLEARLY GREEK, ON BASIS OF 1958 GENEVA CONVENTION. THIS CLAIM, PLUS "INCIDENTS" DURING RECENT NATO EXERCISES IN AEGEAN, HAVE HEIGHTENED TENSIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. PANAYOTACOS SPECULATED THAT GOT IS MOTIVATED BY RECENT DISCOVERY OF OIL IN AEGEAN OR BY DESIRE TO DIVERT PUBLIC ATTENTION FROM CURRENT INTERNAL PROBLEMS. IN ANY CASE, GOG IS DETERMINED TO REMAIN COOL AND AVOID A CONFRONTATION. IT IS ALSO DETERMINED, HOWEVER, "NOT TO SACRIFICE AN INCH OF OUR TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY." PANAYOTACOS ADDED THAT "SOME FRIENDLY WORDS" FROM THE UNITED STATES TO THE TURKS MIGHT BE HELPFUL.

4. IN RESPONSE, SISCO SAID THAT OUR ADVICE TO BOTH THE GREEK AND TURKISH SIDES WOULD BE THAT THERE ARE ALREADY ENOUGH SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, THAT EACH GOVERNMENT SHOULD AVOID LETTING PRESTIGE BECOME INVOLVED, AND THAT BOTH ALLIES SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE PEACEFULLY.

5. GREEK-U.S. RELATIONS. ASKED FOR HIS OPINION ON THIS SUBJECT, PANAYOTACOS COMMENTED THAT "OUR RELATIONS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE EXCELLENT, BUT WE ARE UNHAPPY WITH THE VIEWS OF CERTAIN LIBERAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS." THREATS OR RESTRICTIONS OF ANY KIND, SUCH AS CONTAINED IN THE PELL BILL, WOULD ONLY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. THE NEW GREEK REGIME SHOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE ITS ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE I.E. RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC RULE. PRESSURE ON THE REGIME WILL NOT HELP. IN FACT, IT MIGHT PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF "LEFTISTS" IN THE GREEK ARMY WHO NOW CONSTITUTE ONLY A SMALL FACTION OF THE OFFICER CORPS.

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6. SISCO REMINDED PANAYOTACOS THAT GREECE OCCUPIES A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE EYES OF EVERY AMERICAN EXACTLY BECAUSE IT WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF DEMOCRACY. THUS, AMERICANS LOOK AT GREECE DIFFERENTLY FROM THE WAY THEY VIEW MOST OTHER COUNTRIES, AND THEY EXPECT MORE OF THE GREEKS. IF THE UNITED STATES INDICATES AN INTEREST IN MOVES TOWARDS REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, IT IS BECAUSE (A) WE FACE REAL PRACTICAL PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH THE HILL ON ASSISTANCE

MATTERS WHICH CAN AFFECT OUR MUTUAL SECURITY INTERESTS AND
(B) WE FEEL IN LONG RUN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL
PROVIDE BEST ASSURANCE OF STABILITY. SISCO EMPHASIZED,

HOWEVER, THIS IS A GREEK MATTER, AND UNITED STATES HAS NO
INTENTION OF INTERVENING IN GREECE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

7. IN CONCLUDING ON THIS SUBJECT, PANAYOTACOS CLAIMED
THAT FORMER GREEK REGIME ALMOST SUCCEEDED LAST FALL IN
ACHIEVING FREE ELECTIONS AND RESTORATION OF PARLIAMENTARY
GOVERNMENT, BUT EFFORT FAILED BECAUSE OF UNCOOPERATIVE
ATTITUDE OF FORMER POLITICIANS. "MAYBE THE SET-BACK WILL
MAKE THEM WISER." THE NEW REGIME WILL MOVE BY STEPS
TOWARDS RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, AND ONE STEP
WILL INVOLVE CHANGES IN CABINET TO INCLUDE "FORMER POLITI-
CAL PERSONALITIES." AGAIN, PANAYOTACOS STRESSED THAT
OUTSIDE PRESSURE ON REGIME WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. KISSINGER

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